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# Receiver resigns after nine months

Dr. Alberto

Vázquez-Matos

By Shelby Macri smacri@gmail.com

HOLYOKE - Receiver/ Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alberto Vázquez-Matos

announced his resignation on March 19, after serving the Holyoke Public Schools for just nine months.

Vázquez-Matos has served the district during a national pandemic and was able to accomplish a timely start to schools with all the safety and health mitigation strategies in place. The

district was able to provide electronics and other assets for students remote learning, as well as

starting in-person learning Sep. 14 for high need students.

The Holyoke Public Schools also had different communication systems in place to connect with parents about updates and

any help they needed during these unique times. Vázquez-Matos was also working with many city officials like the Health Director and city leaders to monitor case numbers and patterns, and to discuss the district's strategy to move forward. The schools will return to in-person learning on Apr. 5.

"I will be acting receiver for as long as it takes the

See RESIGNS, page 5

#### SPORTS RETURN TO HOLYOKE HIGH



The Holyoke High School boys basketball team is participating in the Fall 2 season, and took the court last week against Sabis. More photos are on page 7.

Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

# Morse's time as mayor ends

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – At the close of business on Friday, March 26, Mayor Alex Morse's tenure in the top seat will come to a close.

Morse announced he was leaving office early, about nine months ahead of the end of his term after he secured a job as the town administrator for Provincetown, a town on the tip of Cape Cod. Morse secured a position there for more than twice the yearly salary he made as mayor of Holyoke.

Morse was not seeking re-election and made that announcement back in December 2020, but announced at the end of February he had secured the position of town administrator. He took a couple of weeks to negotiate his contract with the Select Board in Provincetown before formally announcing his resignation.

This brings to the end a very eventful tenure for the longtime Holyoke resident.

Morse started out by stunning the region when he defeated Elaine Pluta to become mayor in 2012. He was 22-years-old, the youngest mayor in the city's history. He was also the first openly-gay mayor in the city's history.

He made huge waves early on when he fired a number of city employees in order to make improvements in different areas. He went to work trying to make improvements to the city's economy and improve diversity and bring more people into the city.

Morse was not without his controversies during his tenure.

He regularly clashed with the Holyoke City Council on various issues, and used his veto power on a number of occasions. The council did override him a few times.

He also went through a number of resignations in the past few years, including the city treasurer and other department heads. His management of the police and fire departments also came under scrutiny during his tenure, but crime overall went down during his tenure as mayor.

Morse was opposed in successful in running for re-election three times. In 2015, city voters changed the mayor's term of office from two to four years. Morse won re-election that year and ran

for the first four-year term in 2017, telling many it would be his final term in office. He planned to be mayor for no more than 10 years.

His final term included a run last year for U.S. Rep. Richard Neal's House of Representatives seat. His bid was unsuccessful, and included a scandal perpetrated by the UMass Chapter of the College Democrats. The group alleged inappropriate behavior by Morse during his time as an adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Morse was later found to have not violated any university policies.

For the time being, Council President Todd McGee will take over as acting mayor, though he is looking for a different solution as he does not believe he can

See MORSE, page 5



Mayor Alex Morse will leave office on Friday, March 26.

File photo

# Panhandling issue comes back to council

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – For several years, the Holyoke City Council debated various versions of a panhandling ordinance in order to respond to resident complaints of panhandling being in various parts of the city.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Murphy filed a new order last year related to panhandling.

His order would make it a "traffic violation" for a person to hand a panhandler money while driving on city roads.

Murphy's proposed order states: "Ordered that the Ordinance Committee consider an ordinance which would create a penalty for any driver handing out anything from the car window as a traffic safety violation."

The panhandling debate was quelled a few years ago when the Department of Public Works proposed installing some shrubbery on roads with medians where panhandlers would regularly stand.

The council also added Chapter 85, Section 17A of state laws to its books. The law stipulates that anyone who "signals a moving vehicle on any public way or causes the stopping of a vehicle thereon, or accosts any occupant of a vehicle stopped thereon." Those people could be fined up to \$50.

The rule also allows for non-profit organizations to seek exemptions from the chief of police. These include such fundraisers as when the fire department collects money with their boot fundraiser.

Panhandlers frequent high traffic areas, including the medians around the Holyoke Mall. Councilors have filed various orders to try and put a stop to the issue, responding to resident complaints about it.

Murphy's proposal, which has to be formally debated by the Ordinance Committee, would put the responsibility on the drivers who are giving panhandlers money.

Over time, panhandling has been allowed to happen as an expression of "free speech" and the council order attempts are criminalizing poverty by targeting people's First Amendment rights.

While panhandlers can be punished in some fashion if they leave the medians and block traffic, it does not prevent them from using the small areas in an effort collect money.

Since the ordered had been filed, Councilor David Bartley filed one earlier this year seeking to repeal MGL Chapter 85, Section 17A pursuant to a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union. They sent a letter detailing a Supreme Judicial Court ruling the law to be unconstitutional. Thus, the ACLU is requesting the city cease any enforcement of all ordinances related to the state

The Ordinance Committee will take up the issue at a future

# Wistariahurst Museum presents Ida Wells workshop

HOLYOKE - On Wednesday, March 31 at 2 p.m., Wistariahurst will present Ida B. Wells: The Price of Resistance, an interactive performance and workshop with Amina Jordan-Mendez, performing and teaching artist with Enchanted Circle Theater. This live, virtual program will be presented on Zoom. The program is free to attend, but spaces are limited and pre-registration is required.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a visionary activist and journalist whose writing and voice changed the trajectory of Black life and Resistance. While she is marginally celebrated now, in life she was often shunned and silenced.

In this workshop we will explore integrity and self determination in the struggle for human rights and protections. The program begins with a short film about Ida B. Wells and a poetry per-



lda B. Wells-Barnett

formance with Ms. Jordan-Mendez. Participants will then be led through discussion, writing, and sharing in a brave and reflective space forwarding the conversation for equity and healing.

The program is also supported through a Community Development Block Grant -COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging.

To register for Ida B. Wells: The Price of Resistance, please visit www. Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyoke.org. If you have an idea for a topic you'd like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact info@wistariahurst.org.

# **COVID-19 testing at HCC** extended through June

HOLYOKE – Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to

Testing is free to all Massachusetts

residents, and conducted on a firstcome, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the tate can be found at: https://www.mass.gov/ info-details/stop-the-spread

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations:

https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health



The COVID-19 test site at Holyoke Community College will continue to offer drive-thru testing until the end of June.

## Middle School students returning

HOLYOKE – Students in Grades 6-8 who selected to participate in schoolbased Campus Learning Centers (CLCs) are scheduled to return on March 29. Students will participate in CLCs at their regular school for 2 days/week. Schools have been and will continue to reach out to families with further information.

Students who are learning in-person at school do not need to wear uniforms, although they may choose to. The priority is on creating a safe environment; families do need to ensure the student has a face covering/mask. Contact your school if you need a mask for your child.

If you haven't done so already, please complete your child's Return to School Packet. It is absolutely critical that we have the most current phone numbers for every student in attendance, so that we can quickly contact you if your child becomes ill while at school.

## **Equine center hosting fundraiser**

HOLYOKE - The Therapeutic Equestrian Center (TEC), located in Holyoke, is hosting a virtual fundraising event featuring the 2021 Winnie Film Festival Tour. This film fest will feature exclusive world premier short documentary films that celebrate the healing powers of the horse.

Enjoy two hours of inspiring and heartwarming films anytime from 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9 until 10 p.m. on Sunday, April 11. A modest fee of \$25 is requested to register and you'll be provided a link to stream to any smart devise such as phones, tablets, and TVs. Binge in one sitting or stretch the viewing out over the entire weekend – the choice is yours!

To register for this virtual event, please visit our website at tecriders.org.

We are proud and grateful to announce that Garry Rome Hyundai is our exclusive event sponsor.

TEC has been closed during the pandemic but hopes to open later this year. Proceeds from this event will help feed and care for our stable of horses and provide necessary materials needed for a safe reopening.

#### **Brand expert to make Zoom presentation** HOLYOKE – Boston-based brandbranding works to make more compeling expert Mark Gallagher will be guest

speaker at The Communicator Club's virtual program from noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 6.

With the term "branding" so often conflated with advertising, marketing and design, it's no wonder so many efforts fail. Effective brands cut through the noise in an overcrowded marketplace because they are clear about who they are – and why that matters.

Gallagher, the co-founder of Blackcoffee, promises to uncover successful branding's essence. Those attending the presentation will learn "how ling arguments and tell more engaging stories through positioning principles, he said.

A partner at Blackcoffee, an agency that works exclusively with brands in transition, Gallagher works at the intersection of Brand Strategy (how a brand is defined) and Brand Identity (how a brand

A \$10 fee will be charged for the Zoom-based program. To register, go to https://conta.cc/3qL9Rdq.

For more information about The Communicators Club, visit https://communicatorsclub.org/.

#### 2021 Cornelius J. Moriarty, Jr. Scholarship for Cadet Engineers

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 164, Sections 69B to 69F, applications for a cadet engineer scholarship will be received at the:

> Office of the Manager Holyoke Gas & Electric Department 99 Suffolk Street Holyoke, MA 01040

Deadline: May 14, 2021

(Applications will only be considered if received on or before the deadline).

Application forms may be obtained during regular business hours at the above address or from school guidance counselors. For further information, please contact the Office of the Manager, at 536-9313.

#### Applicants for the scholarship must be:

- 1) Residents of the City of Holyoke.
- 2) Graduates of a duly accredited senior secondary school (year 2021 or before).
- 3) Not less than seventeen (17) years old on their last birthday, nor more than twenty-five (25) years old.
- 4) Accepted for admission to, or already enrolled in, an accredited community college, college, or university having a course of study leading to a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering.



**Holyoke Gas & Electric** 99 Suffolk Street Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 536-9300 www.hged.com

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# Food Court seating reopens at Holyoke Mall

Massachusetts guidelines under Phase Four Step One, seating has reopened at Holyoke Mall's food court. Café Square was previously only open for takeout service. Restrictions will be similar to that of all restaurants and guests will find tables placed at least six feet apart, parties limited to six people or less and sanitization in between guests by on-site housekeeping staff. Guests will also be required to wear a mask unless seated at a food court table to eat or drink.

There are seven restaurants in the

HOLYOKE - In accordance with food court including Wings Express, The Greek Place, Cajun Café, Charleys Philly Steaks, McDonald's, Smoothie Island and EA Teriyaki. The list of dining options will soon include Sbarro, which is planning to open in the coming

> "With safety as the highest priority at the shopping center, we are thrilled that we'll be able to provide guests with seating to enjoy their meals purchased in the food court," said Bill Rogalski, General Manager for Holyoke Mall. "Not only does this make the guest's

experience more enjoyable, it also makes them more likely to visit the food court, which was previously only open for takeout."

Many stores and restaurants will continue to offer curbside pick-up. A complete list can be found at Curbside@ Holyoke. Mall hours of operation are Monday

through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. All visitors to Holyoke Mall are

reminded to wear a mask and follow our Healthy Shopper Guidelines.



The Food Court at the Holyoke Mall now has seating once again.

#### **Drive-thru Easter event scheduled**

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Parks and Recreation cordially invites the Holyoke community to "Drive into Spring." This event will take place on Sunday, March 28, 2021 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Community Field (off Cherry Street).

Wave to the Easter Bunny, Paw Patrol Characters, Nick's Nest Hot Dog and more surprises!

Music provided by 413 Family

Collect an Easter gift bag for children 12 and under while supplies

This event is free of charge. Rain date is scheduled for Saturday, April

For more information visit our web site at www.holyoke.org or call the Parks & Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.



# **Library to present Irish Genealogy research**

HOLYOKE - Join us via Zoom as Irish genealogy specialist Lisa Dougherty provides a brief introduction to using the online resource Irish Genealogy for family history research. Lisa's presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period during which she will demonstrate Irish Genealogy using participants' own family research questions. Users

may follow along on their own devices. The registration process will provide instructions for submitting your question. Feel free to ask about specific individ-

Lisa Dougherty

understand that Lisa may or may not have success in finding information for you or be able to respond to all participant questions. Due to the format of this event, attendance may be

uals you are researching, but

About Lisa Dougherty: Lisa Dougherty has 25 years of experience with family history research, with a focus on internet and Irish research. She is a

member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is the Genealogist-in-Residence at the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, New York.

#### Lyman Terrace | 30 Hampden Street | Holyoke, MA 01040 (P) (413) 887-6642 | TTY: 711 | lyman.terrace@TCBINC.ORG

The newest phase of Lyman Terrace Apartments is now leasing and will be taking applications for 1 and 2 bedroom subsidized apartments.

Section 8 income eligibility requirements and preferences apply. To obtain a copy of the Tenant Selection Plan please contact the management office.

Applications will be available from February 22, 2021 through April 23, 2021. You may obtain applications in several ways during the application period: 1.) Complete an application online on our website www.lymanterrace.com (PREFERRED METHOD); 2.) Print the application from our website at www.lymanterrace.com, complete and mail to 30 Hampden Street or email to lyman.terrace@tcbinc. org; 3.) If you or anyone assisting you cannot use the above methods, please call (413) 887-6642 or email lyman.terrace@tcbinc.org and ask that an application be mailed or e-mailed to you.

Your place on the waiting list will be decided by Lottery so there is no need to come in person, early, or wait in line. Returning completed applications and Lottery selection: Applications may be completed online or completed and returned by mailing or emailing to us by the Lottery deadline of April 23, 2021 by 11:59:59PM. This is the final deadline for taking applications for the Lottery. Mailed applications must be postmarked by this date.

Two virtual informational sessions will be held on March 8, 2021 from 6pm-7pm and April 5, 2021 from 6pm-7pm (both can be accessed via these links: https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1485387837 (March 8th Information Session); https://meetings.ringcentral. com/j/1489614803 (April 5th Informational Session).

All applicants must be determined eligible in accordance with the Department of HUD regulations and must meet the family size requirements for a designated bedroom size (maximum of 2 persons per bedroom; minimum of 1 person per bedroom preference) as well as maximum income of all family members (please see income limits below). If your application shows that you are eligible, you will be notified in writing by mail or electronic mail at least 10 days prior to the Lottery date and you will be provided an Application Registration Number (inclinible applicants will also be notified in writing and will be provided the chance to appeal). Only eligible applications will be entered into the Lottery. Your place on the waitlist will be decided by a Lottery that will be held virtually at the following date and time: Monday, May 10, 2021 at 10:00am via this link https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/5719941869. The lottery will be recorded and posted to our website and social media page.

You do not need to be in attendance for the selection process since you will be notified in writing of your Lottery Number subsequent to the Lottery. In the event that public gatherings are not permitted, as result of federal/state/local mandate, the Lottery will be completed with the assistance of an electronic random drawing service (e.g. www.random.org) using the "paid service" option and/or third-party monitor, as may be acceptable to MassHousing and/or DHCD. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR POSITION ON THE WAITLIST MAY NOT BE DICTATED BY YOUR LOTTERY NUMBER SINCE THOSE WITH A PREFERENCE WILL TAKE PRIORITY. After the Lottery, the waiting list will remain open until further notice. Applications will be processed in order of receipt from that point forward. Please call (413) 887-6642 | TTY: 711 or email lyman.terrace@tcbinc.org if a reasonable accommodation request is needed or assistance with Limited English proficiency.





THECOMMUNITY **B**UILDERS

**Poetry Corner** 

# "If The World Doesn't Say I'm Sorry"

By Thomas J. Kennedy

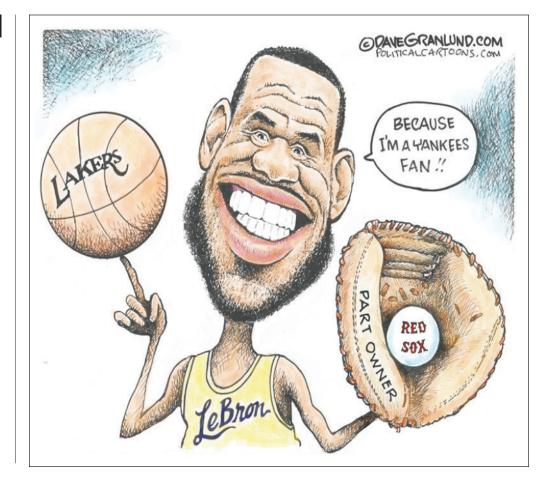
If the World doesn't say I'm sorry, If the World doesn't say I share, Then you must set example – You must learn to always care.

First for others, as we truly are all sisters and brothers. Tell the World I am being the best of me until my eternity.

First for others...
As we are sisters and brothers.
I will try to live an honest humility
with generosity.
But always be grateful and if you don't own it
Leave it alone.

God is in control and always wins out. Be nice... Be always sincere, Give more love and not anxious fear.

Be good and be a person with gratitude and compassion with cheer.
And at least this new year...
and God Bless America.



#### **Guest Column**

#### **Fun with houseplants**

IN THE

GARDEN

Just about a month ago I decided to re-pot a number of my "houseplants." I figured the timing was good, since before too long the plants would be responding to longer days with increased growth. They would relish new soil and more room for their roots to sprawl in the bigger pots I would provide. While I have never really felt that my outdoor "green thumb" has transferred to indoor plants, I've managed not to kill enough

of them so that one morning of February vacation was spent with my hands in potting soil liberating them from a fate of being root bound in the same tired soil.

One of my favorite houseplants is the Gerber daisy. Most people think of this plant as a summer annual, and it technically is here in the northeast, but frugal Yankees (i.e. Mom and I) have been keeping them alive through the winter for years now. Its pretty pastel daisy-type flowers remind me of those the prankster clowns use to squirt water in the faces of unsuspecting folks. In our house we call it the "happy plant." I had three good-sized pots of them, all with tired soil. It showed by how yellow-green the leaves were. I moistened my

compost-based Coast of Maine potting soil and proceeded to pry the plants apart, giving the divisions a fresh pot and a splash of liquid fertilizer once back on the windowsill. I am happy to say I now have one flower and a few others awaiting in the crown! Success!

Three other plants typically grown as annuals were saved from winter's chill and brought indoors as an experiment. One was a lobelia plant that grew in a ceramic pot

by my front door all summer. Usually lobelias peter out during the dog days, but this newer variety kept right on blooming right through the heat. For the fun of it, I cut it back in late October and put it, pot and all in my mud room. Lo and behold, it started to grow. I provided it with light, some fresh soil and said liquid fertilizer, and it is actually sporting a few blossoms right now. I am only hoping it will be happy indoors for several more weeks; thankfully lobelias are fairly cold hardy so I can probably get it outside earlier than most flowering plants.

Another annual I overwintered is heliotrope. Given to me as a gift last summer, its purple, vanilla-baby powder scented flowers

provided a olfactory pick-me-up whenever needed. Admittedly, this plant struggled over the winter but with fresh soil and a brighter window it is thriving once more. The same goes for a coleus that I got from a my friend Jean a year and a half ago. I decided take cuttings of all three to increase my coffers and happily both the coleus and the lobelia have rooted. It's been tricky to keep the almost furry heliotrope leaves from wilting while awaiting roots. More research necessary there.

Late last spring I made a mixed planter with succulent type plants for my porch. I used what I had, including two tiny kalachoe plants rescued from where I don't recall. They looked so pathetic that I planted them almost in the same hole to make one decent-sized plant. But alas, in just three months of good soil and a warm porch they tripled in size and by February were full of aphids. After a soapy bath they were separated, each given their own pot. Now, one has flower buds! I have read that kalanchoes are easy to propagate. Simply take a cutting of terminal growth two to three inches long, stripping off all but the top 2 or 3 leaves. Allow the stem to callus and then insert into a free-draining type of

See GARDEN, page 5

# March 16 to March 31: American Revolution, OK and March Madness

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is awarded to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

After the Revolution, everything is A-OK

HISTORY MATTERS

#### By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

y March 22, 1765, the British, short on funds to absorb the costs of their military presence in the colonies, unloaded the Stamp Act on the overburdened citizenry. Already, they were anteing up for the sugar tax on imported goods, paying an assessment for paper money, and a quartering fee for the housing and food costs of the Redcoats.

The Stamp Tax levied a charge on everything from newspapers, and pamphlets, to playing cards, but that offense kicked off outrage and defiance. According to History.com, "They raised the issue of taxation without representation and formed societies throughout the colonies to rally against the British government and nobles who sought to exploit the colonies as a source of revenue and raw

materials. By October of that year, nine of the 13 colonies sent representatives to the Stamp Act Congress, at which the colonists drafted the 'Declaration of Rights and Grievances,' a document that railed against the autocratic policies of the mercantilist British empire."

Although it was eventually rescinded, the public's pique unified the colonists, suffused them with nationalism, and, slowly, activated America's war of independence.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution," by Edmund S. Morgan and Helen M. Morgan.

#### Okay is created

Did you know that the United States does not have an official language? The Constitution does not specify one, nor is there a law which mandates the country to speak English; most Americans have accepted it as their "mother tongue," but adapting it in a very un-British way.

Take the distinctly American "okay," which started out as an abbreviation: "OK." It was common in the mid-19th century for younger, educated men and women to deliberately misspell words for amusement. For example, the slang for "all correct" became "oll korrect" or OK, and was sopped up in

the American lexicon when the editor of the March 23, 1839 edition of the Boston Morning Post, tagged it "OK" to denote that the copy was "all correct" or—"oll korrect."

Other newspapers replicated the abbreviation; it diffused all over the world and morphed into "the most frequently spoken word on the planet."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "OK: The Improbable Story of America's Greatest Word," by Allan Metcalf.

#### **March Madness**

March Madness is overwhelming the nation. It has been that way since March 27, 1939, when the University of Oregon beat Ohio State University 46–33 in the final game of the very first NCAA men's basketball tournament.

If the Super Bowl causes the nation to stop and focus on football for one day, the annual NCAA basketball tournament holds the attention of the nation about three weeks. It starts mid-month when the "first four" –or first round games—are played, and last until the "final four" games culminate with the selection of the two teams that will compete in the championship.

See HISTORY, page 5



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# A Quote

#### **OF NOTE**

"Opening Day.
All you have to do
is say the words and
you feel the shutters
thrown wide, t
he room air out,
the light pour in.
In baseball, no
other day is so pure
with possibility."

Mary Schmich

# Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

#### **RESIGNS**, from page 1

state to decide what the next steps are for appointing either me or someone else to a permanent receiver position," Anthony Soto said. "I want what's best for Holyoke and we have a lot of work to do to get students back to in person learning and to recover from the impact that the pandemic has had on many students, families, and staff."

Soto has been the interim receiver during the past month and was appointed to acting receiver after Vázquez-Matos' resignation.

In a press release from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Vázquez-Matos thanked families and students of Holyoke for the opportunity to work in the district this year. Additionally, he thanked the faculty and staff of the HPS for their dedication to teaching and learning, as well as the health and safety for the community and students. Vázquez-Matos looks forward to pursuing other professional interests in education.

Media Relations Coordinator Jacqueline Reis explained that there is no further information at this time for naming a new receiver, but plans to address the process and any questions when more information becomes available. This includes whether or not Soto will finish the academic school year as acting receiver.

Soto has been with the Holyoke Public Schools as the Chief Finance and Operations Officer since 2014, he will be working with Holyoke staff and city leader to implement a turnaround plan for the district and complete the school year safely and effec-

Soto says the recovery of the district from the pandemic is the focus of the HPS, and the team will continue to focus on the families, students, and staff during these unprecedented times.

#### MORSE, from page 1

handle the job full time. The city council has yet to figure out who will be act-

There are two declared candidates for mayor who will run for elec-

#### GARDEN, from page 4

potting soil, one comprised of peat moss and perlite is ideal. Begin checking for roots in about a month.

Another plant that faced true liberation a month ago was an amaryllis that I received in a fancy clear container. The bulb was waxed, or maybe even covered in some kind of plastic. Hard to tell.. All you had to do was put it on the shelf, no potting up required. Something did not set well with me about this fancy new modus...they want you to throw it away afterwards! But I kept my comment to myself, thanked the person who gave it to me and watched as it bloomed, nicelv, but on a shorter stem than what I am used to. Once the flowers had passed it looked as though another stem wanted to put out flower buds, but it just sort of sat there. I decided I would operate, gently peeling the wax off the bulb. After planting in potting soil the amaryllis did bloom and has since put out healthy white roots this last month. Next it will grow a healthy crop of foliage then go dormant before blooming again next fall/

It was a lot of fun to repot and experiment with my "houseplants." Maybe I've had some success because not all of them were intentioned for the house all along. Or maybe my luck is changing!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject

ing mayor for the remainder of the year.

#### tion later this year. Two others have expressed interest, but have not formally announced runs.

#### HISTORY, from page 4

In the beginning, eight schools were invited to participate; this year, 68 will face off in the men's competition.

The inaugural women's NCAA tournament of 1982 had representation from 32 schools; the 2021 line-up will be generated from 64.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "How March Became Madness: How the NCAA Tournament Became the Greatest Sporting Event in America," by Eddie Einhorn and Ron Rapoport.

#### **HOLYOKE WATER WORKS** Job Posting – March 29, 2021 to Deadline-April 9, 2021 **Motor Equipment Repairman** One (1) Full Time Position

Position Summary: Performs routine maintenance on all motorized vehicles, tools and equipment along with other assigned laboring duties

Essential Functions: Repairs and maintains all motorized vehicles, tools and equipment. Performs manual labor for the maintenance, repair and improvements to the municipal water system. The functions above are normal for this position. Other duties may be required and assigned. The essential functions or duties listed above are intended only as examples of the types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

#### **Duties:**

- 1. Under general supervision, performs skilled repair and maintenance of all motorized vehicles, tools and equipment.
- 2. Maintains records on all vehicles, equipment and tools of a mechanical nature.
- 3. Inspects and troubleshoots gasoline and diesel internal combustion engine-powered vehicles and other engine-powered equipment.
- 4. Performs tune-ups, repairs electrical systems, adjusts or replaces carburetors/fuel injection systems.
- 5. Replaces faulty or worn parts, grinds valves, replaces brake pads and rotors, and performs engine over-
- 6. Performs minor welding and metal working duties as deemed necessary.
- 7. Performs preventative maintenance tasks such as lubrication and replacing oil filters, changing oil/trans-
- 8. Maintain logs or records and vehicle maintenance for record keeping purposes
- 9. Supervise a small crew of workers at a lower skill level such as Laborers and Summer Employees. 10. Perform laboring tasks as assigned by his supervisors in other departments as deemed necessary.
- Experience required: At least five (5) year paid experience as an official Motor Mechanic or Motor

Education, certification, licensure, or other similar requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent;

Must possess a Massachusetts Driver's License Class C. Supervision: On occasion supervises a small crew of laborers and/or summer/seasonal employees as

Job Environment: Fieldwork is performed outdoors with loud noise levels and exposure to variable

weather conditions/hazards associated with utility construction. The workload is subject to seasonal and weather-related changes

#### **Physical Requirements:**

- 1. Physical ability to repair/maintain motorized vehicles and equipment and other construction related
- 2. Tasks involve the regular and sustained performance of moderately physically demanding work, typically involving some combination of driving, climbing, digging, stooping, kneeling, crouching, and crawling, and which involves the lifting, carrying, pushing and/or pulling of moderately heavy objects and materials (up to 50 pounds) and occasionally heavier objects and materials (up to 100 pounds).
- 3. Requires the ability to coordinate hands and eyes in operating hoisting, heavy motor equipment and other construction tools.
- 4. Requires the manual dexterity to handle a variety of items, control knobs, buttons, switches, catches, tools, etc. Must have significant levels of eye/hand/foot coordination.
- 5. Must be adaptable to performing under stress when confronted with emergencies or tight deadlines.
- 6. Communications: Requires the ability to talk and hear.
- 7. Exercises some independent judgment on repair methods and replacement of parts; decisions subject to review while work is in progress. Tasks may require frequent exposure to adverse environmental conditions. The physical demands described above are representative of those that must be met by an employee to

perform the essential functions of this job successfully. Reasonable accommodation(s) if needed will be provided for the employee with the adequate strength, dexterity, coordination, and visual acuity in a manner that does not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of the employee or others in the workplace.

Other requirements: Must be able to pass an employment physical, drug screening, and criminal background check.

#### Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) status: Non-Exempt (hourly)

Employment Status & Hours: Regular Full Time, 40 hours per week, Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m-3:00 PM Pay rate: \$23.73 to 25.48 per hour, paid weekly

Employee Benefits: Health, Dental, Retirement, Life Insurance, Sick, Vacation and Personal Time. **Reports to:** Working Foreman Motor Equipment Repairman

Applications are available upon request at the Holyoke Water Works. Apply by completing a Labor Service Application IN PERSON or by contacting: Joseph Manzi, Business Manager @ 413-536-0442

or by email @ manzij@holyoke.org Return the completed Labor Service Application along with a copy of your Mass. Driver's License (BOTH FRONT & BACK) to:

#### Holyoke Water Works, 20 Commercial Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

The Holyoke Water Works is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate because of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender, genetic information, marital status, military status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other legally protected category. Bilingual applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

#### HOLYOKE WATER WORKS Job Posting – March 29, 2021 to Deadline-April 9, 2021 **Motor Equipment Repairman**

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- 5. Replaces faulty or worn parts, grinds valves, replaces brake pads and rotors, and performs engine over-6. Performs minor welding and metal working duties as deemed necessary.
- 7. Performs preventative maintenance tasks such as lubrication and replacing oil filters, changing oil/ transmission fluids and other similar duties.
- 8. Maintain logs or records and vehicle maintenance for record keeping purposes.
- 9. Supervise a small crew of workers at a lower skill level such as Laborers and Summer Employees.
- 10. Perform laboring tasks as assigned by his supervisors in other departments as deemed necessary Experience required: At least five (5) years paid experience as an official Motor Mechanic or Motor Equipment Repairman

Education, certification, licensure, or other similar requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent; Must possess a Massachusetts Driver's License Class C. Supervision: On occasion supervises a small crew of laborers and/or summer/seasonal employees as

deemed necessary Job Environment: Fieldwork is performed outdoors with loud noise levels and exposure to variable weather conditions/hazards associated with utility construction. The workload is subject to seasonal and

weather-related changes **Physical Requirements:** 

1. Physical ability to repair/maintain motorized vehicles and equipment and other construction related

- 2. Tasks involve the regular and sustained performance of moderately physically demanding work, typically involving some combination of driving, climbing, digging, stooping, kneeling, crouching, and crawling, and which involves the lifting, carrying, pushing and/or pulling of moderately heavy objects and materials (up to 50 pounds) and occasionally heavier objects and materials (up to 100 pounds).
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- 4. Requires the manual dexterity to handle a variety of items, control knobs, buttons, switches, catches, tools, etc. Must have significant levels of eye/hand/foot coordination.
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Other requirements: Must be able to pass an employment physical, drug screening, and criminal back-

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) status: Non-Exempt (hourly)

**Employment Status & Hours:** Regular Full Time, 40 hours per week, Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m-3:00

Pay rate: \$23.73 to 25.48 per hour, paid weekly

Employee Benefits: Health, Dental, Retirement, Life Insurance, Sick, Vacation and Personal Time. Reports to: Working Foreman Motor Equipment Repairman

Applications are available upon request at the Holyoke Water Works. Apply by completing a Labor Service Application IN PERSON or by contacting: Joseph Manzi, Business Manager @ 413-536-0442 or by email @ manzii@holvoke.org

Return the completed Labor Service Application along with a copy of your Mass. Driver's License

(BOTH FRONT & BACK) to: Holyoke Water Works, 20 Commercial Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

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# Vaccine clinics ramp up

HOLYOKE – Veterans Affairs recently held a vaccine clinic at the War Memorial. Area veterans were able to come to the clinic to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. More clinics should be coming as the vaccine rollout gets bigger.

The main hall of the Holyoke War Memorial building was transformed into a multi-station vaccine clinic for Veteran's on Tuesday, March 9.

Photos by Shelby Macri





From left; Matt Savoie gives veteran Ronald Holmes his first vaccine.



Angela Taylor gives veteran Paul Babino his first set of vaccines at the Holyoke War Memorial.



**SALE DATES:** 

3/25/21 - 3/31/21

Veteran Lisa Belanger gets her first vaccine from Angela Taylor.



There is a section on stage where the vaccines are thawed out and distributed to the stations.





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Brian Cristobal tries some fancy footwork to get through the Sabis defense.



Adrix Madera makes his way down the court.



Patrick Gubala heads down the court after making a rebound.



Holyoke sports are back. Last Wednesday, the boys basketball team returned to action in the Fall 2 season, falling to Sabis 58-53. In the loss, Brian Cristobal had a huge game with 32 points, more than half of Holyoke's total scoring. Moises Silva had eight points. Moises Silva reaches for the basket as he takes a shot.

# Purse structure announced

WAIERBURY, VI and NAPLES, ME -- American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) officials have announced the purse structure for the five weekly divisions set for competition at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in 2021.

A total of nearly \$24,000 in posted awards have been set to be distributed to the Sunoco

Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Limited Sportsman, and Mini Stocks at each event. All five divisions and I agreed to take on this role will compete as part of the sixrace oval track event schedule at Thompson, which begins with the annual Icebreaker on April 10 and 11. The schedule also includes four Wednesday night races in the summer (June 16, July 7, Aug. 11 and Sept. 15)

and the Sunoco World Series (Oct. 8 to 10).

"When Tom (Mayberry) at Thompson, one of our priorities was posting a fair purse for all divisions," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "I raced for 20+ years, and I experienced firsthand the value of an

See RACING, page ??



Information has been released for racing purses for the 2021 season.

Submitted photo

# Valley Wheel Baseball seeking new talent

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

REGION - The regular season is just a month away and the members of the Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League are excited to be playing baseball again.

Last year, the season was cancelled once parks were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

An attempt was made by commissioner Jim Nason to hold a short season once modified rules for activity were allowed, but there was not enough interest to keep the league operating.

Now, the league is

gearing for a full season, but between circumstances changing during the pandemic and the modifications currently in place for sports The league is definitely in need of more baseball talent.

Nason is hoping "quarantine fatigue" and the need to get outdoors and get active will draw new players to tryouts when they start next

Tryouts for the league will take place Saturday, April 3, and the next two Sundays, April 11 and 18.

There are normally six teams in the league and the hope is to continue to have

See BASEBALL, page ??

# College conference moves forward with competition

WESTFIELD - The eight Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents announced today that they have approved a plan to have competition for the spring sports of baseball, men's golf, women's lacrosse, softball and men's and women's outdoor track and field. The presidents have also approved the continuation of practice for fall and winter MASCAC teams subject to health and safety, testing and tracing protocols in place to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"The MASCAC continues to meet regularly with the presidents, athletic directors, athletic trainers and other essential staff as we bring our student-athletes back to the playing field, safely, while adhering to all state, federal and NCAA guidelines," said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "It is our intention to have these athletic events as long as the conditions allow us to move forward safely. The MASCAC office and eight MASCAC Presidents will be monitoring practices and competition to ensure the continued health and safety of our student-athletes and staff."

It will remain the decision of each member institution to determine if they can safely participate in intercollegiate athletics this spring and in which sports they will permit competition. These decisions will be made in consultation with campus health professionals and the MASCAC Commissioner.

The presidents have approved a conference schedule where the institutions will play the same school each week in baseball, softball and women's lacrosse. In addition, the membership has approved a men's golf and outdoor track and field championship. Additionally, the presidents have authorized institutions to schedule non-conference contests, provided all non-conference teams follow prescribed MASCAC health and safety guidance and protocols. Institutions will not be traveling to compete against teams

As the MASCAC teams continue to participate in athletic activities, it is the continued responsibility of all student-athletes and staff to stay diligent in their safety efforts on and off the field of play. Individual member institutions reserve the right to halt competition if the health of the campus community is put at risk. In the event of an increase of COVID-related cases on any of our campuses, the schedules may be adjusted, which might include stoppage of play.

"The presidents are excited to move forward with plans for spring sports competition," said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents. "As we plan for spring sports competition, we will continue to fine-tune protocols to ensure the safety of student-athletes, coaches, staff and the campus communities," said President Birge.

Consistent with state restrictions on gathering limits, spectators will not be permitted at MASCAC contests at this time. This policy may be revisited for outdoor sports if conditions improve and subject to state and local health authorities' guidance. For the enjoyment of family, friends and fans of our student-athletes, the MASCAC will continue to livestream contests on MASCAC.tv.

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its' 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

## Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION - The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a sixteam league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball. org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and players

who are not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to

mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league's website.

#### take place on Sunday, April 11. The league's first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a

#### RACING, from page 9

extra dollar. We've put together a competitive structure that rewards everyone who shows up and will help teams get their cars to the track."

The roar of the Sunoco Modifieds will return to the high-banks with drivers chasing a \$1,500 winning prize for their 30-lap feature races. With \$900 on the line for second, \$600 for third and \$200 to start each race, the Sunoco Modified purse itself rises over \$8,500. Some of the top names in local Modified racing are expected to compete, including Keith Rocco, who looks to continue his dominance of the competitive class on Thompson's 0.625mile oval. Other names expected for the opener include Troy Talman, a former Thompson winner.

The Late Models, which will again follow ACT Tour rules — including the addition of the new Hoosier tire — will chase \$1,200 to win. As part of a purse better than \$7,000 throughout the field, Late Model drivers will open the season with a 40-lap special at the Icebreaker. They will continue to thrill Thompson fans with some of the top competitors from across New England. Names like Woody Pitkat, who swept both races in 2020, along with Nick Johnson, defending ACT Tour Rookie of the Year Derek Gluchacki and more will be in competition.

The Limited Sportsman are set to return with a purse over \$3,000 of their own and \$350 on the line to win. Known as one of the most exciting divisions at Thompson each year, the Limited Sportsman keep fans on the edge of their seat with two, and often three-wide action throughout the field.

Early entries for the season include former Thompson champions Kyle Gero and Larry Barnett, along with former Seekonk Speedway Sportsman champion Corey Fanning. At the Icebreaker, Limited Sportsman drivers may also take the opportunity to compete in a 8-Cylinder Open Street Stock open on Saturday, which pays \$1,000

Rising over \$3,000, the SK Light Modified purse includes another \$350 to win, with \$250 for second and a strong distribution of funds throughout the field. As a division that puts some of the youth of Modified racing and veterans together, it's expected to be another stout year.

The Mini Stock thunder will return to Thompson with feature races set for \$200 to win and over \$1,600 in presented awards. Early entries for the season include Thompson veterans Russ Barboza, Tommy Silva and former division champion Steve Michalski.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park opens its 82nd season of oval track racing with the Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. The 10-division card includes the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series, the PASS Super Late Models, and five Thompson weekly divisions. The 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open, NEMA Lites, and EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge round out the card. An optional Test N' Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all





Valley Wheel Baseball is ready to get started again. Tryouts were held last summer before the season ultimately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. File photos



Tryouts are set to begin on April 3.

#### BASEBALL, from page 9

that tradition as players begin to make their way out to the fields The normal Valley Wheel season is 15 games beginning April 25 this year and going until the end of July. The league plays nine-inning games, allowing all participants an opportunity to get plenty of at-bats and lots of time in the field.

The top four teams in the league make the playoffs and the semifinals and finals are held in the first two weeks of August. The schedule also features a couple of weeknights games and a special Mother's Day weekend Saturday

There are still modified rules for adult baseball under the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, which requires mask-wearing, social distancing when possible, and no spitting among the habit baseball players are not allowed to engage in. While the game play is largely the same, the mask-wearing rule was one

that was the subject of controversy last summer and ultimately led to the cancellation of the shortened season.

With vaccinations in Massachusetts clearing one million people and the state entering Phase 4 of the re-opening plan earlier this week, Nason is hopeful the restrictions will ease as the season goes on, especially as it relates to gathering.

Comradery is one of the staples of the league, which has usually included tailgating after games. That is a practice that will also have to be on hold until restrictions lift.

For more information on getting involved in adult baseball, go to www. valleywheelbaseball.com. To play in the league, you must be 28-years-old before June 1. In order to participate in the league as a pitcher, you must be 30-years-old before June 1. Players can participate in at least one of the three tryouts dates, usually held at Blunt Park, and then a draft is held prior to the start

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL #001-6393 **HOLYOKE BOYS & GIRLS** CLUB

(70 Nick Cosmos Way) Sealed proposals for the replacement of existing dual fuel heating boiler and domestic water heater with new elec-

trical and control support as necessary will be received by the President/CEO, 70 Nick Cosmos Way, Holyoke, MA up to 3/31/21 at 10:00 AM in which bids will be publicly

Plans will be available digitally by request to both rwilloughby@rwhall.com & mbianchini@rwhall.com.

A pre-bid walk thru will be held on site Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

This project is Federally funded. In order to be eligible for federal funds, respondents must have a valid DUNS number and be registered in the System for Award Management (sam.gov).

The work to be performed is subject to requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. 03/19, 03/26/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and **Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P0517EA Estate of: Maria F Colon Also known as: Maria Francisca Colon Date of Death: 02/27/2020

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Hilda M Schwartwald of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

The Petitioner requests that: Hilda M Schwartwald of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administra-

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/19/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVIŚED **ADMINISTRATION UNDER** THE MASSACHUSETTS **UNIFORM PROBATE CODE** (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this

Date: March 22, 2021 Rosemary A Saccomani

Register of Probate

**Notice of Public Hearing** The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hear a Special Permit Application for Marijuana Retail and Manufacturing Establishment of Green Highland LLC to build & operate a marijuana retail, cultivation and processing establishment at 26 Hadley Mills Rd (023-01-004). Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www. zoom.us Meeting ID: 837 0239 0719 Meeting Passcode: 631952 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@ holyoke.org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke. org or by phone at (413) 322-

Ordinance Chair Rebecca Lisi 03/26, 04/02/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **Probate and Family Court** 

**Hampden Division** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD21P0478EA

Estate of: Paul F Hogan, Jr. Also Known As: Paul F Hogan Date of Death: 02/14/2021

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE** 

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, Patrick H Hogan of Holyoke,

Patrick H Hogan of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/26/2021

**Notice of Public Hearing** 

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hear a Special Permit Application for Massbiology Technology, LLC to build & operate a marijuana cultivation & processing establishment at 6 Appleton St (048-01-003). Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom. us Meeting ID: 837 0239 0719 Meeting Passcode: 631952 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosi@holvoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance Chair Rebecca Lisi 03/26, 04/02/2021

**Notice of Public Hearing** 

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hear a Special Permit Application of EMB Natural Ventures LLC Marijuana Facilities-Cultivation for the establishment of a Marijuana facility for cultivation purposes at 140 Middle Water St (047-01-015) Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom. us Meeting ID: 837 0239 0719 Meeting Passcode: 631952 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted topubliccomment@holyoke. org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke. org or by phone at (413) 322-

> Ordinance Chair Rebecca Lisi

03/26, 04/02/2021

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CLASSIFIED LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE** 

DIVISION OF CAPITAL **ASSET MANAGEMENT &** MAINTENANCE

Electronic Bids submitted in the format furnished by the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM) and clearly identified as a bid will be received through DCAMM's E-Bid Room at www.bidexpress.com/ businesses/10279/home no later than the date and time specified and will forthwith be publicly opened remotely by DCAMM Bid Room personnel and read aloud over a conference call line. Persons interested in accessing the remote bid opening can do so by using the following conference line number and passcode: CenturyLink Audio Conferencing Dial in number 1-877-820-7831, Passcode: 818087.

General Bids at 2:00 PM: April 12, 2021

Every General Bidder must be certified by DCAMM for the category of work listed below and for no less than the bid price plus all add alternates of this project, if applicable.

The Category of Work is:

Demolition Mass. State Project No. DCP2121 HC1

> Quabbin Building Demolition, Monson State Hospital, Palmer, MA

E.C.C: **\$750,000** 

This project is scheduled for 45 calendar days to substantial completion and includes the removal of all structures of a connected building and removal of all elements and safe disposal of all refuse as required by law off-site.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on March 30, 2021 @ 12:00 PM at 175 State Avenue, Monson, MA.

Minimum rates of wages to be paid on the project have been determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor Standards. These rates are incorporated into the bid doc-

Bid documents for this project may be accessed or downloaded at no cost to potential bidders exclusively through DCAMM's E-Bid Room https:// www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home One hard copy set is also available for viewing by appointment only in DCAMM's Bid Room located at One Ashburton Place, 1st Floor, Room 107, Boston, MA during normal business hours. Please contact DCAMM's Bid Room at (617) 727-4003 or bidroom.dcamm@mass.gov for an appointment.

In order to access bid documents and submit bids through DCAMM's E-Bid Room potential bidders must first be verified by DCAMM's Bid Room and then register with the E-Bid Room vendor. Instructions on the processes can be found on DCAMM's website www.mass. gov/dcamm/bids or contact DCAMM's Bid Room at the phone number or email listed above.

Carol W. Gladstone COMMISSIONER 03/26/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21C0047CA In the matter of: Sara Elizabeth Rivera

CITATION ON PETITION TO **CHANGE NAME** Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Sara Elizabeth Rivera

of Holyoke, MA requesting

that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Davina Fiamma Drema IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden** Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/20/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 16, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate 03/26/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Hampden Division** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD21P0482EA Estate of: **Phyllis Marie Welch** Date of Death: February 12, 2021 INFORMAL PROBATE **PUBLICATION NOTICE** 

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Theresa A. O'Neil of Northampton, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Theresa A. O'Neil of Northampton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/26/2021

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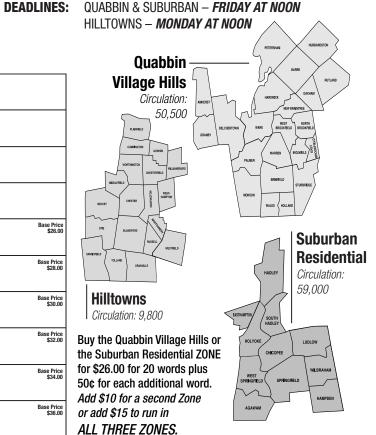
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# Students can now be registered for pool testing

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Public Schools have announced the pooled COVID-19 testing program will be starting. The schools stated:

"We are excited to share that in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, HPS will be offering a free COVID-19 pooled testing program for students and staff at our schools. By working together to test every student and staff member who opt into the program each week, we will keep our entire school community safer. Positive cases will be identified more quickly, which will reduce any potential spread of COVID-19 in our schools. We have been collaborating with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and are delighted to join other school districts throughout the state that offer this program.

The pooled tests will be performed weekly with a shallow nasal swab for all participating students and staff members. Schools will receive the pool results within 24-48 hours.

If the result of the pool is negative, then all

See TESTING, page 12



#### ◆ La Cucina di Hampden House

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA

#### 413-566-8324

#### www.lacucinahampden.com

CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm; Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

#### ◆ Route 20 Bar & Grille

2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops) Wilbraham, MA

#### 413-279-2020

#### www.route20barandgrille.com

CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm; Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm; Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

#### **◆ Donovan's Irish Pub**

Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA 413-543-0791

#### www.donovanspub.com

CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm; Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

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#### NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

# **HCC** to host film and talk April 7

HOLYOKE - The Latinx Studies department at Holyoke Community College will host a short film and live presentation by dancer Michelle Marroquin and musician Tony Silva on Wed., April 7 from 11 a.m. to 12:15

Their film, Volver a los 17 ("Return to 17"), was inspired by the iconic Chilean folk song of the same name by singer Violeta Parra, whose poetic lyrics speak to the longing, remembering and honoring of the tender age of 17, when love first bursts into bloom. In the film, Silva plays guitar as Marroquin's dance leads viewers on an abstract journey of memory and loss and asks how the past has made us who we are.

Marroquin is a bicultural dance artist who has created interactive performances in the Pioneer Valley since 2014. Silva is a guitarist and composer, specializing in Rumba Flamenca and Latin American folk music.

Since COVID -19 severely limited their ability to perform in person, the Easthampton-based husband and wife team shifted into making music/dance films under the name Dragon Circle Productions.



A film presentation will be made by the Latinx Studies department on April 7.

Volver is the third film they have co-created in the last six months.

During the April 7 Zoom event, Marroquin and Silva will share the film and present a brief retrospective of their work. The audience will have an opportunity to converse with one another, share responses, and participate in a discussion on the themes that inspired the film: exile, memory, loss, and identity.

The presentation is part of the HCC's ongoing series of events highlighting Latinx artists and cultures and the college's Latinx Studies program.

To register for the event, please go to: hcc.edu/volver

#### **TESTING,** from page 11

individuals are presumed to not have COVID-19.

If the result of the pool is positive, then all individuals in the pool must be retested individually at school using the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test. This test would be performed by your child's school nurse using a nasal swab.

Since pooled testing does not give individual results, you will only be notified if your child requires this follow-up

Additionally, the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test is also available at all schools to test students and staff who show symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Emails and texts have been sent this afternoon to families to:

ask permission to regularly test their child as part of a free COVID-19 pooled testing program at school, ask permission to use the Abbott BinaxNOW rapid diagnostic test if their child exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school

provide information about how to register their student through Project Beacon for this program.

We are aiming for 100% student and staff participation."

# License fees waived for 2021 season to help local businesses

HOLYOKE - As part of an effort to help businesses in Holyoke cope with the ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic, the City of Holyoke's License Board, with the encouragement of Mayor Morse, has waived the following license fees for the 2021

- Restaurant All Alcohol & Wine/
- Hotel/Innkeeper All Alcohol & Wine/Malt
  - Club All Alcohol
  - Veteran's Club All Alcohol
  - Common Victualer
  - Entertainment

• Automatic Amusement Devices

Any business seeking to renew these licenses for the 2021 season will not have to submit a license fee. For businesses that have already submitted payment for these fees, the City will return those payments to the business. Waiving fess is just one small effort to help local businesses. Utilizing federal Community Development Block grants, the City in partnership with the Greater Holvoke Chamber of Commerce, has also established a small business grant program to assist local businesses during these uncertain times.

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# 14 17 20 39 45 60 64 67 68

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Volcanic crater 5. Long times
- 10. Swedish rock group 14. Having the means to
- do something 15. Rods or spindles 16. La Tar Pits.
- Hollywood 17. Missing soldiers 18. Measuring instrument
- 19. All of the components considered individually
- 20. Play " Irish Rose" 22. Gene
- 23. Barrels 24. London-based soccer team
- 27. Feline 30. Breed of sheep 31. Body part
- 32. Doctors' group 35. One who follows the
- rules 37. Cigarette residue

- 38. Ancient Greek sophist 39. Polish yeast cakes
- 41. Pancakes made from
  - buckwheat flour 42. Completed perfectly 43. Photo
  - 44. A peninsula in SW Asia 45. The common gibbon 46. Disfigure 47. Ribonucleic acid
  - 48. Japanese honorific 49. Pieces of music 52. Expressed pleasure
  - 55. Having ten 56. Type of sword 60. Humble request for
  - help 61. Eating houses 63. Italian Seaport 64. Cain and
- 65. Measure the depth 66. U. of Miami's mascot 67. Political outsiders
  - 68. Greek sorceress 69. Body part

- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Mother
- 40. Promotional materials 2. Jewish calendar month Jai \_\_\_, sport
  - 4. Establish agair 5. Swiss river Racetrack wager
  - 7. but goodie 8. Closeness 9. Soviet Socialist Republic 10. At right angles to a
  - ship's length 11. Women's undergarments 47. Flower cluster 12. Mountain stream
  - 13. Expresses pleasure 21. Painful places on the body
  - 23. Automobile 25. Scandinavian god of battle
  - 26. Expresses surprise
  - 27. Secret political clique 28. Yields manila hemp 29. River in central Italy 32. Brain injury science acronym

- 33. Mental illness 34. A person from Asia
- 36. Father 37. General's assistant
- (abbr.) 38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style
- 40. Large terrier 41. Hillsides
- 43. Golf score 44. Not or 46. Type of student
- 49. Closes tightly 50. Saudi Arabian desert
- 51. Famed vaccine developer 52. Multi-function radar
- (abbr.) 53. Actress Jessica
- 54. Pay attention to 57. Beloved big screen pig
- 58. Clapton, musician
- 59. Take a chance 61. Cost per mille 62. Helps little firms

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9